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EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

1. Aftermath of Vienna Meeting. The Soviet propaganda machine has deferred definite comment on the Kennedy-Khrushchev meeting in Vienna until the widely anticipated report by Khrushchev is made on it. It has been announced that Khrushchev will give a radio and TV report the evening of June 15 on the meeting. Likewise there has been almost no comment on the President's June 6 speech, the full text of which was published in Pravda on June 9. Although a minimum has been said so far about the Geneva Conference on Laos, leaving the impression that the Soviets are working quietly to get the Conference moving forward, Soviet positions on other main issues discussed at Vienna have been kept before the public - publication of the aide-mémoires on nuclear test suspension and disarmament and Berlin-Germany.

The little that was said about the President's speech in the press emphasized that the President found his meeting with Khrushchev a useful and sober experience. The press also said that cold war elements in the US were trying to create an artificial atmosphere of pessimism about the value of talks between Western and Soviet leaders but sought to give the impression that these forces are in a minority.

While refraining from substantive comment, the Soviet press, nevertheless, kept the Vienna meeting in the limelight by publishing many commentaries from abroad on the meeting of a uniformly favorable character and by printing photographs on the meeting in pictorial magazines.

2. Geneva Conference on Laos. The visit of Souvanna Phouma and Souphanuvong to Moscow en route to Geneva, the return of Gromyko to the Conference, the paucity of news coverage in the Soviet press, as well as the fact that Laos bulked large in the communique on the Vienna meeting, in combination left the impression that the Conference on Laos would enter a more active phase, after a period of waiting to see what would happen at the Vienna meeting. However, reportage of actual conference sessions after Gromyko's return to Geneva suggested that so far the Vienna meeting has not done much to close the gap between communist and wester positions on Laos. The press dealt with the violation of cease-fire issue by making it appear that the fault lies entirely with the Boun Oum-Phoumi "rebels," who it alleged were not satisfied with the prospect of a peaceful settlement and were creating incidents behind the Pathet Lao Lines. Without specifying that the Pathet Lao had engaged in military action, the press said that they had taken necessary measures to protect the "liberated" areas. The press significantly did not report the capture of Padong by the Pathet Lao, claiming simply that it had long been in Pathet Lao controlled territory.

3. (BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL) Sukarno's Visit. President Sukarno departed for Peiping on June 12 after a visit of one week in Moscow and Leningrad. During his sojourn Sukarno was given grade-A treatment by the Soviet Government, including Khrushchev accompanying Sukarno on his Leningrad visit. Despite the attentions of the Soviets, Sukarno on occasions acted in a high-handed manner, cancelling engagements with short notice. The final communique seemed sober and restrained compared with Sukarno's flamboyant behavior and

the speech made on the evening of his arrival. As far as the Embassy is aware, the positions taken by Sukarno in the communique did not depart from official Indonesian positions on various international and bilateral issues stated earlier in public. Although Sukarno spoke of the need for the reorganization of the UN, he did not in any way indicate support for the Soviet tripartite proposal. There was no reference in the communique to new economic or military assistance. (END CONFIDENTIAL)

4. Near and Middle East. There was some slackening in the Soviet press campaign against UAR anti-communist activities. Pravda on June 9 and 10 carried material on al-Hilu's death, but thereafter the case dropped from sight, at least for the moment. Trud (June 13) reported a recent meeting between Damascus newspaper correspondents and Riad al-Turk who, it stated May 20, had died in prison. The paper made no mention of its May 20 story, but noted that the meeting had been arranged by the authorities to refute reports of al-Turk's death. Conceivably Trud's backhanded admission of error was in response to UAR representations.

The sharpest Soviet press criticism of Iranian Premier Amini noted to date was contained in the latest issue of the weekly journal Novoye Vremya, which also attacked the Shah. The journal charged Amini with flouting the wishes of the nation by his affirmations of loyalty to CENTO, and taking orders from abroad in undertaking repressive measures against discontent, including putting the army on a state of readiness. Neither Amini nor the Shah, Novoye Vremya stated, can turn back the wheel of history, and terror and repression will not block the popular will. The journal also referred to Amini's anti-corruption drive as a fake show.

5. Soviet Comment on Peace Corps. A Komsomolskaya Pravda (June 12) article hinted strongly at the existence of considerable interest on the part of Soviet youth in the Peace Corps, and was intended to put the Corps into the proper propaganda perspective. It stated that the idea of the Corps has spread into other countries and caused lively discussion among youth. The article's basic message was that despite the genuine enthusiasm and idealism of US youth, the Corps was being exploited for narrow US political (and intelligence) purposes. It warned US youth and the youth of the countries where the Corps will operate to be vigilant so that their good intentions are not exploited in the interests of "mankind-haters" like Allen Dulles.

INTERNAL - POLITICAL

6. Leadership. The week was unusually full of news of the leadership because of the state visit of Indonesian President Sukarno (June 5-12) and the first All-Union Conference of Scientific Workers in Moscow (June 12-14). There were group gatherings of presidium figures on seven occasions as well as numerous lesser events. Every Moscow-resident Presidium member was in town except Cultural Minister Furtseva who was visiting Iceland and England. Khrushchev figures prominently in the coverage of Sukarno's visit. Additionally, his film "Our Nikita Sergeyevich" was being shown all over Moscow and has been well advertised in the papers (see below). In further support of

his "statesmanship" Khrushchev's aide-memoire to President Kennedy was published on June 11 and on June 13 he addressed the nation on the substance of his talks with President Kennedy. Even small things were not missed. Plastic yurts (portable huts) made for West Kazakhstan Kolkhoz workers at Khrushchev's personal suggestion (at the recent regional meeting at Alma Ata) were pictured and described in glowing terms.

Brezhnev, as "chief of state" was busy on several other protocol occasions during the week in addition to helping handle Sukarno's visit. On the other hand, for the "party," a visiting delegation of Bulgarian communists was met on June 12 by CC Secretary F.R.Kozlov. That same day, when 11 Presidium figures (including Khrushchev) appeared at the All-Union Conference of Scientific Workers again Kozlov was selected to greet that body in the name of the CPSU CC. Two days later presidium member A. N. Kosygin identified by his "government" title was given a boost by publication in all papers of his June 14 address to the Scientific Workers Conference. Yet it was A.I.Mikoyan and not Kosygin who as "First Deputy Chairman" represented the Council of Ministers in two protocol functions during the week, receiving the Japanese Ambassador on June 8 and attending the reception given for the Indonesian defense chief by Soviet Minister of Defense Malinovskiy on June 11.

Madam Furtseva ended her week-long visit to Iceland by stopping for a few days in England on her way back to the Soviet Union. In addition to other publicized activity she laid a wreath on the grave of Karl Marx thereby reminding Soviet readers that not all Soviet heroes are buried in Red Square. Also abroad, of course, both ambassadorial figures on the Presidium were given publicity during the week. Candidate Member of the Presidium (and Ambassador to Germany) M. G. Pervukhin saw Ulbricht on June 10 and Full Presidium Member (and Soviet Ambassador to Poland) A. B. Aristov met the Zasyad'ko delegation which on June 13 arrived in Poland for the Posnan Fair.

7. The Khrushchev Cult: "Our Nikita Sergeyevich" is currently playing in eleven Moscow theatres and being televised in bits from time to time on the local TV. It is another major contribution to the Khrushchev "cult" (see Despatch 841 of June 16). Extracts from numerous reels dating from the thirties have been carefully selected to depict Khrushchev as a man of the people with a great deal of wit and personal charm. He is portrayed as a man whose hard work and personal sacrifices for his country merit praise and honor. In lavishing compliments on all phases of Khrushchev's activities (while neglecting contributions of others) a disbalance is created suggestive of the Stalin "cult of personality" but fawning obsequious adjectives are avoided. The film also avoids any direct reference to Stalin or the cult period with the exception of one short frame showing Khrushchev with the deceased Soviet dictator.

8. Presumed Regional Organization of the Council for the Affairs of the Russian Orthodox Church Confirmed. A. A. Sakharov is among those personalities identified as attending the VI Plenum of the CC of the Latvian Party (Sovetskaya Latviya, June 8). His given title is "Commissioner of the Council for the Affairs of the Russian Orthodox Church pri the Council of

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Ministers of the USSR for the Latvian SSR. Until now, the Embassy had no record of Sakharov; his designation may be interesting because in identifying him as a "commissioner" of one of the (presumed) regional subdivisions of this council, existence of such a regional breakdown is confirmed.

MILITARY

9. AIR. On 15 June the Soviet press announced that July 9 has been named Day of the Air Fleet of the USSR and that on that day in Moscow an aerial parade will be held at Tushino Airfield.

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10. [redacted]

FOR THE CHARGE d'AFFAIRES

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